

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2, 9-12, 14 and 25-29 because of informalities. Applicant's respectfully request reconsideration of the objections.

Regarding claim 2, "the connection" has been removed in one location and clarified in another. It is clarified that the receive beamformer is part of the imaging system.

Regarding claim 9, a person of ordinary skill in the art of ultrasound would understand that transduction elements transduce between electrical and acoustic energy. The transduction is used to generate acoustic energy. The same element may then generate signals from acoustic echoes (reflections of the transmitted acoustic energy). Claim 9 is clear. The acoustic energy is not the received signals. The acoustic energy propagates away from the sound source as known in the art, and the received signals are responsive to the transmitted acoustic energy since the acoustic echoes of the transmitted energy are transduced into received signals. Claim 9 does not recite the location of the transmit beamformer since it may be located in the transducer, in the imaging system or another location (e.g. the transducer connector).

Claim 10 has been amended to relate acoustic velocity to the temperature-dependent property and to correct antecedent basis. Similarly, claim 11 has been amended.

Claim 12 was a withdrawn claim, but has now been amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 14 has been amended to clarify "the connection" for antecedent basis. The signals may originate from anywhere, such as the elements. Claims 14 would have been clear to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 25 has been amended to relate the frequency content to the temperature-dependent property.

Regarding claim 26, a person of ordinary skill would understand the transmission and reception. The labels (b) and (d) do not indicate sequence or order, but are only labels.

Claim 27 has been amended to indicate that the lens or window is part of the transducer, like the at least one element.

Claims 28 and 29 have been clarified to indicate transmission of acoustic energy.

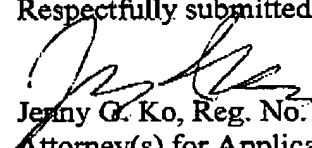
The amendments are made to expedite allowance. The claims are clear to a person of ordinary skill in the art of ultrasound.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (650) 694-5810 or Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

PLEASE MAIL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Respectfully submitted,

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